

Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes October 20, 2016

Present: Mara Klein Collins, Jim Munsey, Noreen Murphy, Paul Raia, Dick Phelps, Jill Greenlee, Rick Fenton, Ann Fitzgerald and Marge Vanderhill.
Associate member present: Bob Tosi and Karen Nichols

I. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Mara Klein Collins at 6:01PM on October 20, 2016, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

Citizen's Open Forum: No one present.

II. Old Business:

A. Feasibility Study

1. Christine Bongiorno is on board with the renovations.
2. The Redevelopment Board meets Nov. 7th. It is an open meeting that COA members can attend.
2. Five million dollars is in the 2018-2019 budget for renovations.
3. The Senior Center will need to be housed off site during construction.

B. AARP

1. Susan will meet with Christine Bongiorno then reconvene with Adam Chapdelaine and Jim Feeney.
2. Although there is no definite certification, the AARP guidelines can be used as a marketing piece within town committees. We have groundwork in all eight areas and the three-year process itself is helpful in getting multi-generational input.
3. Christine said \$9k might be available to use a Merrimac intern as facilitator.

C. Committee Follow Ups: see Report of the Chair

D. Minuteman Senior Services: see Report of the Chair

E. Massachusetts Council on Aging Conference October 26-28.

1. Susan will be presenting a session on elder abuse.
2. Mara will be attending. Susan's budget will pay the fee for one day of attendance for COA members.

F. Town Day: Very busy at the booth and some great volunteers signed up.

III. Report of the Chair

A. Capital Planning Committee

Jim and I attended their meeting on Sept. 29th. We were introduced ourselves. The COA is not on their radar at present as they are working on the special Town Meeting, then capital planning budget for 2017/18. Charlie Foscett, Chair of the Board also sits on FinCom. Barbra Thornton, who we had hoped to meet was not at the meeting. I am arranging a meeting with Sandy Pooler, Assistant Town Manager as he sits on the committee and can hopefully liaison with us.

B. Presentation to Selectman, Capital Planning, and FinComm.

We still need additional data to update the presentation. Jim and Susan are working on this. Once we have it I will get on the Selectman Agenda.

C. Selectmen

1. Jim, Paul and I met with Joe Curro, Selectman on Sept. 30. We advised him that we had fewer funds due to CDBG, EOE, and Sanborn budget/funding cuts. We especially noted transportation being cut, how we are not serving seniors on Friday at all. Joe had a few suggestions re: giving input the budget now before Christine presents it.
2. Joe suggested meeting with all Selectmen, and start with Chair Diane and Kevin Greely. I have reached out to them. Paul and I will meet with them. Kevin said he'd be happy to meet, to contact him early November. I have not heard from Diane as yet.

D. Fincomm

I reached out to Al Tosti, Chair and noted Charlie Foskett had suggested I contact him. I have had no response to date. I will follow up. Jim and I will meet with him.

E. Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS)

Susan and I met with two Board members from Arlington: Dr. Harold Forbes who has a long tenure on the Board and a new Board member Catharyne Gildesgame, which was a good exchange of information. We are also in touch with Kelly Magee Wright, ED of MMSS.

IV. Executive Directors Report: September-October 2016

A. E.D. met with management at Brightview to present our research on creating an Arlington Memory Café. Effective December 2016, we will be collaborating with Brightview in hosting a Memory Café. Brightview will be the host site and will underwrite most of the expenses for this program. The COA researched and created a 12-month schedule. Thank you Brightview of Arlington and to Nina Cherilus, Senior Public Health major at Regis College!

B. Hoarding program has been progressing well and participants want the program to extend an additional 5 weeks.

C. Senior Center lunch went extremely well. We held the registration at 75 people.

D. E.D. met with Kelly McGee-Write, ED of MMSS. Shared ideas and future collaborations

E. Received notice from EOE that the previously approved \$10 per senior has been reduced to \$9 per senior as a result of decreased state revenue expectation. State revenues are lower than projected; therefore Governor Baker reduced this line item. This has significant impact to the COA. More than likely the \$3,000 allocated to transportation and \$6,000 in programming funds will need to be reduced. Susan will request additional monies from the Friends.

1. The COA needs to reduce its reliance on grants for basic funding which the town should do.
2. Statistic that should make the biggest impact is the number of school age children is the same as seniors. Yet the senior population only receives 0.15% of the town budget. This department is the fastest growing in the town, aging faster than new families moving into Arlington.
3. Susan has a gift option account: "Legacy Gifts" that may receive donations.

F. COA has been participating in the Flu clinics. ED enrolled the COA in the NCOA Flu Challenge that awards the Senior Center with the highest amount of flu shots given between September 1 and October 31, up to \$5,000. Will keep you updated.

G. ED spoke with Christine Bongiorno, Department Head of HHS regarding the AARP Age Friendly Community. Christine supports this program. Next step is to bring Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager into the mix.

H. Christine Bongiorno may have up to \$9,000 in grant money that the COA might be able to use for the Age Friendly project. ED will write a brief summary of plan to see if the COA qualifies.

V. Other Reports

- A. Friends of COA: Karen and Ann are our representatives. COA is working on a stronger collaboration, inviting Bob McInnes to a COA meeting. It was suggested the boards have a get together once a year to show our appreciation.
- B. The 5k race had the highest participation ever with 365 enrolled. Record setting donations.

VI. Minutes of the September 15, 2016, were accepted.

VII. New Business: Classes are offered to seniors by the Arlington Community Ed program for a fee.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.